accorded environmental clearance in December, 1993. There has not been any inordinate delay in giving clearance.

Nandankaran Biological Park

1614. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Nandankaran, the country's only biological park located in a forest, is threatened by atmospheric and noise pollution due to the growth of the city of Bhubaneshwar towards the park; and

(b) if so, what steps Government intend to take to preserve the verdant surroundings of Nandankaran and what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The biological park is not under any recognisable threat due to atmospheric and noise pollution caused by the growth of Bhubaneshwar city. The biological park is adequately covered by vegetation and forest which acts as an effective buffer against atmospheric and noise pollution. Appropriate measures including patrolling have been taken by the authorities to ensure the protection of vegetative buffer.

Sanjay Gandhi National Park

1615. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sanjay Gandhi National Park Boriveli in Bombay is incorporated in the National Park under the Purview of Government;

(b) whether Government have received reports of panther menace in this area, if so the total number of persons killed/injured by the panthers during the last three years; and

(c) whether Government have paid any compensation to the affected people; if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c): The Census of human injury/death caused due to accidental attacks of panthers and the compensation paid by the Goverrnment of Maharashtra during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Cases of human death	Cases of human injury	Compensation paid
			Rs.
1990-91	1	7	6,800.00
1991-92	—	3	900.00
1992-93	3	7	47,550.00

Tiger Reserves in India

1616. SHRI DAVID LEDGER: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the areas of Tiger Reserves in India; and

(b) the estimated Tiger Population in Tiger Reserves based on census conducted during the last 20 years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). A Statement indicating the names of the Tiger Reserves and the estimated population of tigers therein during the years 1972, 1979, 1984, 1989 is enclosed.

S.No.	Name of Tiger Reserve	POPULATION OF TIGERS			
		1972	1979	1984	1989
1.	Bandipur	10	39	53	50
2.	Corbett	44	84	90	91
3.	Kanha	43	71	109	97
4.	Manas	31	69	123	92
5.	Melghat	27	63	80	77
6.	Palamau	22	37	62	55
7.	Ranthambhore	14	25	38	44
8.	Simlipal	17	65	71	93
9.	Sunderbans	60	205	264	269
10.	Periyar	NA	34	44	45
11.	Sariska	NA	19	26	19
12.	Buxa	NA	NA	15	33
13.	Indravati	NA	NA	38	28
14.	Nagarjunasagar	NA	NA	65	94
15.	Namdapha	NA	NA	43	47
16.	Dudhwa	NA	NA	80	90
17.	Kalakad-Mundanthurai	NA	NA	20	22
18.	Valmiki	NA	NA	NA	81
19.	Pench	NA	NA	NA	NA
	TOTAL:	268	711	1221	1327

NA—Not Available. The area was not under Project Tiger Scheme at that point of time.

Tiger Census in Assam

1617. SHRI DAVID LEDGER: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tiger Census could not be taken up in Assam for more han a decade; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Threat to Taj Mahal Due to Pollution in Agra City

1618. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govt. are aware of the threat to Taj Mahal due to severe pollution in Agra City; if so factors responsible for that pollution; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that major threat to Taj Mahal is on account of Mathura Oil Refinery and whether Govt process to shift that refinery to some other place and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes Sir. The main factors responsible for pollution in Agra city are emissions from the foundries chemical